

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

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CODEL DIGGS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (DIGGS, CHARLES)

SUBJECT: CODEL DIGGS

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING TO CONGRESSMAN DIGGS UPON ARRIVAL:

PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT, JANUARY 7, 1972: QUOTE.

WE HAVE A NEW WORLD LIGHT HEAVY-WEIGHT CHAMPION OF RACISM.

I HAVE JUST BEEN INFORMED BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE

SMITH REGIME THAT MY ENTRY INTO ZIMBABWE FOR A TWO TO

THREE DAY VISIT FROM APPROXIMATELY THE 13TH TO THE 16TH

OF JANUARY WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.

I CHARGE THAT THIS IS RACISM BECAUSE THERE HAVE BEEN

SEVERAL WHITE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO HAVE BEEN ADMITTED

TO ZIMBABWE. MOREOVER, THE SMITH REGIME WAS ADMITTING

TWO CONGRESSMEN TO BE PRESENT AT THE SAME TIME AS I WAS.

ONE OF THESE CONGRESSMEN IS ON RECORD IN OPPOSITION TO

MINORITY RULE IN RHODESIA AND ALSO IN FAVOR OF A CONTINU-

ANCE OF SANCTIONS AGAINST THE IMPORTATION OF CHROME

FROM RHODESIA TO THE UNITED STATES. SO IT'S NOT A QUESTION

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OF A PERSON'S IDEOLOGY OR EVALUATION OF RHODESIAN POLICY

THAT IS INVOLVED HERE.

I THINK IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT I WAS ADMITTED TO THE

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA LAST AUGUST DESPITE MY WELL-ESTABLISHED OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID AND OTHER RACIST POLICIES OF THAT GOVERNMENT. IT IS THEREFORE DIFFICULT TO PUT ANY FAVORABLE INTERPRETATION ON THIS LATEST ACTION BY THE SMITH REGIME. IN FACT, I HAVE DIFFICULTY IN REJECTING AN INFERENCE AS INDICATED BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COALITION IN ZIMBABWE AGAINST THE SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL, THAT THERE IS NOT ACCEPTABILITY OF THESE PROPOSALS BY THE BLACK PEOPLE WHO COMPRISE 95 OUT OF EVERY 100 PERSONS IN THE COUNTRY.

THE SMITH REGIME IS ALLEGING THAT MY PRESENCE WILL HAVE SOME INFLUENCE ON PUBLIC OPINION DURING THE PERIOD WHEN THE COMMISSION WILL BE PRESENT CONDUCTING THE TEST OF ACCEPTABILITY OF THE SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL TO THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE.

I HAVE VISITED ALL THE AREAS OF AFRICA EXCEPT THE SUDAN, ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA, AND FRANKLY MY MAIN PURPOSE IN SEEKING ENTRY THERE WAS FIRST THAT I HAVE NEVER BEEN IN ZIMBABWE. MY PRESENT ITINERARY HAD INCLUDED THESE THREE

REMAINING PLACES, AS I BELIEVE THE VALUE OF THE STUDY MISSIONS TO EACH AREA IN AFRICA SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

ALSO, OF COURSE, SINCE THE LUSAKA CONFERENCE WHICH IS THE REASON FOR THIS TRIP COINCIDES WITH THIS PERIOD INVOLVING THE TESTING OF THE SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS, I WOULD WITNESS FOR MYSELF THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THESE PROPOSALS TO THE BLACK MAJORITY. I BELIEVE THAT IN VIEW OF THEIR SIGNIFICANCE THIS WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS WELL AS FOR UNITED STATES POLICY. DEFINITELY, I HAD NOT CONTEMPLATED ANY ACTION THAT MIGHT REASONABLY BE CONSTRUED AS "FOREIGN INTERFERENCE", AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SMITH REGIME HAS TERMED MY PRESENCE THERE.

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OF COURSE, IT SHOULD NOT BE PARTICULARLY SURPRISING THAT THAT REGIME IS EXHIBITING RACISM AND REFUSING ME ENTRY. RACISM HAS BEEN THE FAST-SPREADING DISEASE IN THAT COUNTRY EVER SINCE UDI AND THE SMITH REGIME MOVED TO DIVIDE THE LAND IN RHODESIA, HALF TO THE FIVE MILLION AFRICANS AND THE OTHER HALF TO THE 234,000 WHITES, TO RESTRICT THE EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES OF BLACKS BY SPENDING TEN TIMES AS MUCH ON THE EDUCATION OF

THE WHITE CHILD THAN ON THE AFRICAN CHILD, AND TO PREVENT THE BLACKS, WHO CONSTITUTE SOME 95 OF THE POPULATION OF

ZIMBABWE FROM ANY MEANINGFUL POLITICAL PARTICIPATION.

I THINK THIS ACTION UNDERSCORES ONE OF THE MAIN POINTS WE EMPHASIZED DURING THE DEBATES ON THE BYRD AMENDMENT AND IN CONNECTION WITH SEVERAL ISSUES AT THE UNITED NATIONS, NAMELY, THAT THE SMITH REGIME IS RACIST. REGRETTABLY, THIS CONFIRMS A CONTINUING INTOLERANCE BY MR. SMITH OF ANY FORCES THAT MIGHT BE SUPPORTIVE OF A MAJORITY RULE IN THAT COUNTRY FROM WHEREVER THEY MIGHT COME.

FURTHER, THIS OUGHT TO DRAMATIZE TO OUR GOVERNMENT THAT WE OUGHT TO BE VERY CAUTIOUS IN RESTORING ANY ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH MR. SMITH AND IN SUCCUMBING TO THE APPARENT BRITISH SUPPORT OF THAT "GOVERNMENT."

IN THE ACTION MANIFESTO WHICH I ISSUED DECEMBER 14, I HAVE ALREADY CALLED UPON OUR GOVERNMENT INTER ALIA TO "RECOGNIZE THAT THE HEATH/SMITH PROPOSALS FOR A SETTLEMENT" DO NOT SECURE TO THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE MAJORITY RULE, SELF-DETERMINATION, HUMAN RIGHTS OR THE ENJOYMENT OF THE TOTALITY OF THEIR RIGHTS AS SET FORTH IN ARTICLE 73 OF THE U.N. CHARTER.

I CONSIDER THIS ACTION ESPECIALLY UNTIMELY. WE ARE ON THE THRESHHOLD OF AN IMPORTANT CONFERENCE IN LUSAKA TO BRING TOGETHER AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS AND AFRICAN LEADERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF EVALUATING U.S. AND WESTERN POLICY VIS-A-VIS AFRICA. THE RACIAL PROBLEM OF THE MINORITY-RULED AREAS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA WILL BE QUITE UNCLASSIFIED

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SIGNIFICANT IN THIS WHOLE DIALOGUE. SINCE THE SITE OF THIS MEETING IS RIGHT ACROSS THE RIVER FROM ZIMBABWE, I AM SURE THAT THE REFUSAL OF MY ENTRY INTO ZIMBABWE WILL HEIGHTEN CONCERN ABOUT EVENTS NOW TAKING PLACE IN ZIMBABWE.

FINALLY, I THINK WE OUGHT TO REVIEW CRITICALLY ANY POLICY WHEREUNDER RHODESIANS, WHO SUPPORT THE SMITH REGIME, ARE ADMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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